

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 /100 W
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R 141129Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5988

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MR, OAU

SUBJ: GIRM VIEW OF SEPCIAL OAU SUMMIT ON SAHARA--PART II

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1661

1. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE CORRESPONDENT IN NOUAKCHOTT INTERVIEWED MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH JULY 10. EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEW FRONTPAGED IN GOVERNMENT-SPONSERED CHAAB JULY 12 COVERED SAHARA AND RECENT OAU SUMMIT. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. SPEAKING OF PROJECTED SPECIAL OAU SUMMIT ON SAHARA, PRESIDENT ASSERTED MAURITANIA "WOULD NOT ACCEPT PARTICIPATION OF ALGERIAN-FINANCED MERCENARIES UNDER ANY GUISE". AFTER POINTING OUT THAT OAU RESOLUTION ON SAHARA DRAFTED IN ENGLISH BY NIGERIA MADE NO MENTION OF EITHER ALGERIAN MERCENARIES OR THEIR SO-CALLED REPUBLIC, AND NOTING THAT RESOLUTION CONTAINS PHRASE " PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA", OULD DADDAH
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REPORTED GIRM HAD ALREADY INFORMED OAU PRESIDENT-FOR

THE YEAR IN WRITING THAT IT INTERPRETS ENGLISH EXPRESSION TO MEAN "POPULATION" NOT PEOPLE" OF FORMER SPANISH COLONY (I.E. "INHABITANTS OR RESIDENTS OF SAHARA" NOT "THE SAHARAN PEOPLE"). PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT "POPULATION OF SAHARA" IS LOCATED IN MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO AS WELL AS IN ALGERIA. PRESIDENT ALSO DECLARED MAURITANIAN DELEGATION TO PROJECTED SUMMIT WOULD INCLUDE "AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POPULATION OF THE REUNIFIED SAHARA REGION" (I.E. MAURITANIA'S NEW TRIS EL GHARBIA REGION), AND ADDED "NO ONE IS GOING TO PAWN OFF SAHARANS FROM THE SOUTH OF ALGERIA OR MAURITANIAN MEENARIES ON US BECUASE WE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE VERY WELL". PRESIDENT STATED GIRM HAD AGREED TO REOPEN SAHARA FILE BEFORE OAU DESPITE FACT IT CONSIDERED CASE CLOSED "IN ORDER TO LOWER TENSION AND RISK OF WAR IN REGION", BUT STRESSED THERE IS NO QUESTION OF CALLING REUNIFICATION OF MAURITANIA INTO QUESTION...PRESIDENT QOULD DADDAH CONCLUDED THAT MAURITANIANS HAVE ALWAYS UPHELP PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT ASSERTED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO APPLY PRINCIPLE IN THIS INSTANCE BECAUSE OF "ALGERAIN INTERVENTION WHICH HAD MADE SAHRAWIS OUT OF MAURITANIANS, ALGERIANS, AND PERHAPS OTHERS.

3. ON PORT LOUIS OAU MEETING, PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH TOLD AFP REPORTER THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT "NO COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES WAS GOING TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BLOWING UP THE ORGANIZATION", AND NOTED THAT OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS SOMALIA/ETHIOPIAN CONFRONTATION, HAD "IN THEIR TIME PRODUCED EQUALLY COMPASSIONED DEBATES WITHOUT PRODUCING A BREAK-UP". AS THE NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS GROWS AND PROBLEMS OF LARGER SCALE ARISE, TENSIONS ARE INEVITABLE, BUT ARE SIGN OF GOOD HEALTH OF OAU.

HANDYSIDE

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